

MINUTES of the Madawaska School Committee Regular Meeting held **February 11, 2009** at 6:30 p.m. at the Superintendent's Conference Room.

PRESENT: Yves Dube, Chairman Michael C. Wright, Superintendent
 Paul Cyr (**absent**) Ginette Albert
 Roger Thibodeau Wayne Anderson
 Michael Lavertu Christine Cowie
 David Morneault Barbara Pineau

GUESTS PRESENT: **see attached list**

I. The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

II. Adjustment to the Agenda.

A) Adjustments

Mr. Wright asked that a report be added under the "other reports" section of the agenda. The report would be from Adult Education Director, Christine Cowie. The chairman asked if there was any objection. Consensus was reached to add the new report.

III. Correspondence and Announcements.

A) Letter from the Commissioner of Education - RSU Update

Mr. Wright discussed the letter that was received by the Commissioner dated January 26, 2009. Mr. Wright expressed disappointment in the tone and context of the letter, pointing out that the Commissioner simply states the law and nothing regarding legislative efforts to rectify the problem. Mr. Wright also read an email from representative Theriault relative to this issue.

Chairman Dube shared information that he had received from Maine School Management Association relative to various legislative issues.

IV. Period of Public Participation about Items on this Agenda.

School employee Audrey Cyr expressed concern regarding the recent hiring of two cooks in the school department. She stated that she felt that seniority should be considered more in the hiring process. Chairman Dube asked for clarification after Mrs. Cyr said that she and another employee had applied for jobs recently and not gotten them. Chairman

Dube asked, "were you interviewed?" Mrs. Cyr indicated in the affirmative and restated her thoughts about seniority and that the current contract does not allude to seniority. Mr. Wright told Mrs. Cyr that support personnel contract negotiations would be starting soon and that she should see her building representative if she had contract concerns. She indicated that she had done this.

Gisele Faucher asked the Committee to consider reinstating the use of Channel 16 for School Committee meetings.

- V. David Morneault moved to approve the minutes of the January 14, 2009 as presented. Seconded by Roger Thibodeau and so passed 4-0-0.

Barbara Pineau pointed out that she was not in attendance at the January meeting although it indicated that she was.

- VI. David Morneault moved to approve the January 2009 Financial report as presented. Seconded by Roger Thibodeau and so passed 4-0-0.

- VII. Superintendent's Report:

Mr. Wright indicated that much of his report pertained to agenda items that would be discussed elsewhere.

- VIII. Other Reports:

Christine Cowie gave a report on Adult Education and distributed a flyer to Committee members.

- IX. Items of Business.

New Business:

- A) Response to Request for Qualifications

Mr. Wright asked school committee members to come in to review packets of information received from the four firms in response to RFQ. He asked them to come in and request the packets from Helen.

- B) GCFB-R1, GDE, GDJ Personnel Hiring Policies

The policy committee will meet to discuss the policies and make a recommendation to the committee. They will meet February 12, 2009.

C) Budget Timeline

Mr. Wright submitted a proposed timeline to the committee. He mentioned several items that are influential in the timeline of this budget.

- Uncertainty about State penalty regarding consolidation. Will it stay or go?
- The teacher contract from last year was not finished and we are still completing this. This involves the RIF (reduction in force) process.
- The proposed Federal Stimulus package and how it will impact the budget.

Time of meetings were discussed and Mr. Wright will return a final copy to the Committee.

D) Visitor Brochure

The Committee agreed by consensus that the visitor brochure could be handed out at meetings.

Old Business:

A) Elementary School Tractor Update

Mr. Wright gave an update on the tractor and said that Roger Dionne (Town Garage mechanic) had ordered parts. The parts should cost less than \$8,000.00.

B) David Morneault moved to enter into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S.A. § 405 (6)(D) to discuss negotiations between Madawaska Classroom Teachers and Madawaska Educational Support Personnel and the School Committee. Seconded by Michael Lavertu and so passed 4-0-0.

Time In: 7:20 p.m.

Time Out: 8:40 p.m.

POST EXECUTIVE SESSION:

No report.

- X. Roger Thibodeau moved to adjourn meeting at 8:35 p.m. Seconded by Michael Lavertu and so passed 4-0-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Michael C. Wright
Recorder